

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 00829 090504Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03  
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07  
CEA-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01 /096 W  
-----026792 092105Z /75

R 090337Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5035

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0829

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, BM  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HEGINBOTHAM

SUMMARY: EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HEGINBOTHAM'S TWO-DAY VISIT TO BURMA WAS FRUITFUL. MR. HEGINBOTHAM MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR GROUP COUNTRIES AND THE UNDP. HE ALSO HAD A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH GUB DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND FINANCE DR. MAUNG SHEIN AND OTHER GUB ECONOMIC OFFICIALS. WE BELIEVE THE VISIT DEMONSTRATED U.S. INTEREST IN JOINING WITH OTHER DONORS TO ASSIST BURMA'S ECONOMIC EFFORTS, AND IT PROVIDED A VERY SPEEDY FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROMISE MADE TO THE GUB DELEGATION AT THE PARIS CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING REGARDING A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT TO DISCUSS AND ASSESS U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA. THE VISIT FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BOTH THE GUB AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP.  
END SUMMARY

1. EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ERLAND HEGINBOTHAM VISITED RANGOON MARCH 5-7 TO ASSESS U.S. AID POLICY TOWARD BURMA. ON THE DAY OF HIS ARRIVAL MR. HEGINBOTHAM MET WITH EMBASSY'S COUNTRY TEAM FOR BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION OF U.S. POLICY FOR BURMA. THE FOLLOWING MORNING HE MET WITH RESIDENT AMBASSADORS (IN A GROUP) OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP COUNTRIES (FRG, UK, AUSTRALIA, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 00829 090504Z

FRANCE--DUE TO ILLNESS OF JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, JAPAN WAS REPRESENTED BY A FIRST SECRETARY) AND THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE. AMBASSADOR BEAN HOSTED A DINNER IN HEGINBOTHAM'S HONOR ON MARCH 6 AT WHICH MOST CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEMBERS WERE REPRESENTED. IT AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE INITIATED THAT MORNING. ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 7, MR. HEGINBOTHAM HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH GUB OFFICIALS, INCLUDING

DR. MAUNG SHEIN, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND FINANCE;  
DR. AYE HLAING, CHAIRMAN OF UNION OF BURMA BANK (CENTRAL BANK);  
AND U THEIN MYINT, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS  
DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE. (THIS DISCUSSION  
IS BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

2. DURING MR. HEGINBOTHAM'S MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF  
DONOR COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES, EACH OF THE AMBASSADORS AND THE  
UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE GAVE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE  
ASSISTANCE THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS OR AGENCIES WERE  
PROVIDING TO BURMA. THEY ALSO PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS ON THE  
PRESENT STATE AND TRENDS OF THE BURMESE ECONOMY. ON THE  
WHOLE, THE GROUP EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY BURMA  
HAD IMPLEMENTED AND UTILIZED THEIR ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THE  
GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT THE GUB STILL HAD A LONG WAY TO GO IN  
APPLYING MORE PRAGMATIC ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND WHILE IT HAD MADE  
SOME PROGRESS IN THIS SPHERE, THE MOVEMENT WAS PAINFULLY SLOW AND  
LITTLE INFLUENCED BY THEIR ASSISTANCE. THE FRG AMBASSADOR NOTED  
HE WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN HIS COLLEAGUES REGARDING THE FUTURE  
COURSE OF GUB ECONOMIC POLICY.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S  
VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN PROMOTING SOME OF OUR PRIMARY ECONOMIC  
AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN BURMA. IT DEMONSTRATED TO  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF DONOR COUNTRIES THE USG INTEREST  
IN ASSOCIATING ITSELF WITH AN ASSISTANT EFFORT FOR BURMA; IT  
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PAGE 03 RANGOO 00829 090504Z

PROVIDED A VERY QUICK FOLLOW-THROUGH ON THE HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC  
VISIT PROMISED TO THE GUB DELEGATION AT THE PARIS CONSULTATIVE  
GROUP MEETING LAST MONTH; AND IT SET THE TONE, DIRECTION AND  
TEMPO FOR ON-GOING USG DISCUSSIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF OUR  
ASSISTANCE POLICY TOWARD BURMA. THE GUB AND OUR FELLOW DONOR  
GROUP MEMBERS CANNOT HELP BUT BE PLEASED WITH THE MORE POSITIVE  
U.S. APPROACH TO THE SUBJECT, AND WE HOPE THE MOMENTUM SO FAR  
GENERATED CAN CONTINUE UNTIL WE HAVE A MORE ESTABLISHED BUT VISIBLE,  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BURMA.  
BEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Subject:** VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HEGINBOTHAM SUMMARY: EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HEGINBOTHAM'S TWO-DAY VISIT TO BURMA WAS FRUITFUL. MR. HEGINBOTHAM MET W  
**TAGS:** EAID, OVIP, BM, US, (HEGINBOTHAM)  
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